



826 Walnut St., Belpre, Ohio 45714

October 16, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W. Room TW-8204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply to comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
WC-Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

Please register the support of Belpre (Ohio) Area Chamber of Commerce for the new program which will invest \$2 billion annually in rural broadband deployment, and replace the Connect America Fund (CAF) as the Commission's primary investment vehicle in rural broadband deployment.

It is also vital for economic development in our region of Southeast Ohio to raise the minimum speed threshold from 10 megabits per second (mbps) download and 1 mbps upload speeds to 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload. Increasing the minimum speed threshold will require applicants to provide faster internet connections for rural customers, in order to be eligible for program funding.

Our area certainly faces uncertainty for the future of the FCC's investment in rural broadband deployment. Our Chamber and its membership supports broadband investments in underserved rural areas.

Sincerely,
Karen A. Waller
Executive Director